

# MONTANA

## 1987 SPRING TURKEY

### HUNTING REGULATIONS



### General Regulations

These regulations apply to all legally described Spring Turkey Gobbler Hunting Districts and Areas.

**Spring Season** — April 18 - May 10, 1987.

**Licenses** — The following licenses are available at all Fish, Wildlife and Parks offices and most license agents throughout the state.

	Res.	Nonres.
Spring Season Turkey License. . . . .	\$3.00	\$ 3.00
Conservation License (required prerequisite*) . . . .	\$2.00	\$ 2.00
Upland Game Bird License(required prerequisite*). . . .	\$4.00	\$30.00

\* The resident Sportsman's License or the nonresident Big Game Combination License serves as the prerequisite license for both the Conservation License and the Upland Game Bird License.

Montana residents 12-14 years of age, 62 years of age and older or holder's of a Disabled Resident Conservation License, need only the Conservation License to hunt upland game birds. Persons under 12 years of age may not hunt upland game birds.

**Limit** — One wild, male turkey per spring season. Turkey License must be stamped "SPRING".

**Evidence of Sex (Required Spring Season Only)** — During the spring turkey gobbler season, the head and beard must remain attached at all times while being transported from the harvest site to the personal residence of the sportsman or a processing facility.

**Tagging** — Immediately after harvesting the wild turkey, cut out the proper month and day from the license and affix to the turkey so it remains secure and visible at all times.

**Means of Taking** — Wild turkey may be taken with a shotgun not larger than a ten gauge, a long bow and arrow, rifle, or handgun, except in Chouteau, Missoula and Ravalli Counties, and deer/elk hunting districts 121, 130/170 and 291, where only shotguns or long bow and arrow may be used.

**Hunting Hours** — One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

**Restriction** — Baiting prohibited.

**Landowner Permission** — Sportsmen pursuing spring gobblers must secure permission from landowners before hunting on private property.

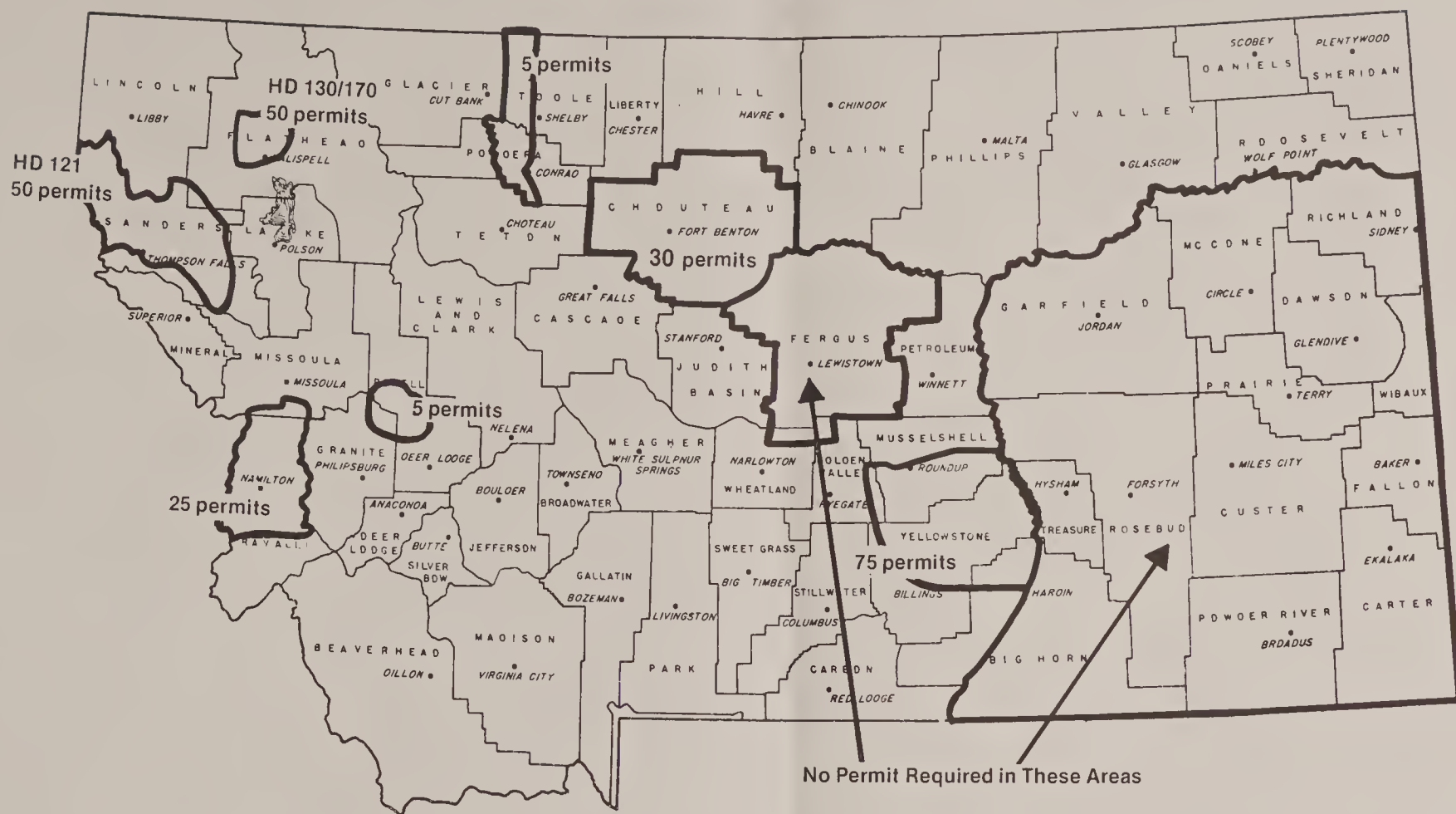
## Legal Descriptions

**Hunting District 121 — West Clark Fork:** That portion of Sanders County lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning where the Sanders-Mineral County line meets the Idaho border, then easterly along said county line to Greenwood Hill, then northerly along the divide to Penrose Peak, Cherry Peak and Eddy Mountain, then northwesterly down ridge to Clark Fork River and mouth of Thompson River, then northeasterly up the Thompson River to the West Fork of the Thompson River, then up the West Fork to Four Lakes Creek, then westerly up said creek to the North Fork of Four Lakes Creek, then northwesterly up the North Fork to Forest Road 7671 and Trail 437, then westerly up said trail to Trail 450, then northerly on said trail to Mt. Headley, then northerly along the divide between Graves Creek and West Fork of Fishtrap Creek to the Vermillion River Divide, then northerly along the Vermillion-Thompson River Divide to the Sanders-Lincoln County line, then westerly along said county line to the Idaho border, then south and southeasterly along said border to the Sanders-Mineral County line, the point of beginning.

**Hunting District 122/123 — East Clark Fork:** Those portions of Sanders and Flathead counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning where the Thompson River County Road meets U.S. Highway 2, then southerly along said road to the Shroder Creek Road and U.S. Forest Service Trail 137, then easterly along said road and trail to Trail 132, then southeasterly to Trail 290, then along said trail to the Flathead Indian Reservation boundary, then southerly along said boundary to the Sanders County line, then westerly along said county line to the Clark Fork-Ninemile Divide, then westerly along said divide to U.S. Forest Service Trail 242, then northerly along said trail to the Clark Fork River, then westerly up the Clark Fork River to the U.S. Forest Service Trail 1714, then northerly along said trail to U.S. Forest Service Trail 404 near Patricks Knob, then westerly along said trail to the Miller Creek Loop Road, then west on said road to Combpest Peak, then westerly along U.S. Forest Service Trail 404 to the Mineral-Sanders County line, then westerly along said county line to Greenwood Hill, then northerly along the divide to Penrose Peak, Cherry Peak and Eddy Mountain, then northwesterly down ridge to Clark Fork River and mouth of Thompson River, then northeasterly up the Thompson River to the West Fork of the Thompson River, then up the West Fork to Four Lakes Creek, then westerly up said creek to the North Fork of Four Lakes Creek, then northwesterly up the North Fork to forest road 7671 and Trail 437, then westerly up said trail to Trail 450, then northerly on said trail to Mt. Headly, then northerly along the divide between Graves Creek and West Fork of Fishtrap Creek to the Vermillion River Divide, then northerly along the Vermillion-Thompson River Divide to the Sanders-Lincoln County line, then easterly along said county line to U.S. Highway 2, then easterly along said highway to the Thompson River County Road, the point of beginning.

**Hunting Districts 130/170 — Flathead River:** All of Hunting District 170 and that portion of Hunting District 130 as follows: Beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 2 and Montana Secondary 206 in Columbia Heights, the northeast corner of Hunting District 170, then easterly along Highway 2 to the South Fork of the Flathead River, then up the South Fork to Frank Creek, then up Frank Creek to Forest Service Trail 51, then up said trail to Doris Mountain on the Swan Divide, then southerly along said divide to Crater Mountain, then down the south side of said mountain to Wolf Creek, then westerly down said creek to Montana Route 83, then westerly along said route to Montana Route 35, the east boundary of Hunting District 170.

## Spring Turkey Gobbler Season Hunting Districts



## Legal Descriptions

**Hunting District 291 — East Garnet Range:** Those portions of Granite and Powell counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Helmville, then southeast along the old county road to Nevada Creek Dam, then across the dam to State Route 141, then southeast along said route to Avon, then westerly along U.S. Highway 12 to Garrison, then westerly on Interstate 90 to Route 271 (Drummond-Helmville Road), then northerly on said road to Helmville, the point of beginning.

**Portions of Ravalli and Missoula counties** lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the junction of the Miller Creek Road and U.S. Highway 93, then southeasterly along the Miller Creek Road to the Bitterroot-Rock Creek Divide at Holloman Saddle, then south along said divide to Forest Service Trail No. 105 near the head of Rye Creek, then westerly along said trail to its junction with the Rye Creek Road, then southwesterly along the Rye Creek Road (Number 75) to its junction with U.S. Highway 93, then northerly along said highway to its junction with Tin Cup Creek, then westerly up Tin Cup Creek to the Montana-Idaho border, then northerly along the Montana-Idaho border to the Ravalli County line, then easterly along said county line to U.S. Highway 93, then north along U.S. Highway 93 to its junction with the Miller Creek Road, the point of beginning.

## Legal Descriptions

**Portions of Musselshell, Big Horn, Yellowstone and Golden Valley counties** lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Billings, then northwesterly along State Route 3 to U.S. Highway 12 north of Lavina, then east one-half mile on U.S. Highway 12 to Emory Road, then north 9.6 miles on Emory Road to Horsethief Road, then east 1.9 miles on Horsethief Road to Timber Buttes Road, then north 3.6 miles on Timber Buttes Road to Golf Course Road, then east 16 miles on Golf Course Road to Roundup and U.S. Highway 12, then east along U.S. Highway 12 to Melstone, then south and southeasterly along the Melstone-Custer Road to the Yellowstone River Bridge at Custer, then easterly down the Yellowstone River to the Bighorn River, then southerly up the Bighorn River to U.S. Highway 87 at Hardin, then west and northwesterly along U.S. Highway 12 to Billings, the point of beginning.

**Portions of Toole and Pondera counties** lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Sweetgrass, then westerly and southerly along the Toole County line to the Pondera County line, then westerly and southerly along said county line to its junction with U.S. Highway 89, then southerly along U.S. Highway 89 to its junction with the Pondera County line, then southerly and easterly along said county line to I-15, then northerly along I-15 to Sweetgrass, the point of beginning.



## Special Spring Turkey Permits Available

Listed below are areas and specific hunting districts where limited numbers of Special Spring Turkey Gobbler Permits are being made available to sportsmen through a special drawing.

Successful applicants are authorized to use their Special Spring Turkey Gobbler Permits, in conjunction with their Spring Turkey License, to hunt in an area that is otherwise closed to spring turkey hunters. **All permit holders must also hold a Spring Turkey License.**

The Special Spring Turkey Gobbler Permit allows the sportsman to hunt in the described area, or specific hunting district, during the time specified on the permit.

Applications must be postmarked by March 29, 1987, to be eligible for the drawing. Successful applicants will be notified by mail and will be required to purchase a valid spring season turkey license before hunting.

**Chouteau County:** Chouteau County in its entirety.

A total of 30 special spring turkey gobbler permits will be issued for this area.

Applicants must submit in writing their name, address, and \$2 nonrefundable drawing fee to the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Rural Route 4041, Great Falls, Montana 59405.

**Portions of Toole and Pondera counties:**

A total of 5 special spring turkey gobbler permits will be issued for portions of Toole and Pondera counties.

Applicants must submit in writing their name, address, and \$2 nonrefundable drawing fee to the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Rural Route 4041, Great Falls, Montana 59405.

**Deer/elk hunting districts 121 and 122/123 in their entirety, and a portion of 130 and all of 170:**

A total of 50 special spring turkey gobbler permits will be issued for Hunting District 121.

A total of 20 special spring turkey gobbler permits will be issued for Hunting District 122/123.

A total of 50 special spring turkey gobbler permits will be issued for Hunting District 130/170.

Applicants must submit in writing their name, address, and \$2 nonrefundable drawing fee to the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Box 67, Kalispell, Montana 59901.

**Deer/elk hunting district 291:** In its entirety.

A total of 5 special spring turkey gobbler permits will be issued for hunting district 291.

Applicants must submit in writing their name, address, and \$2 nonrefundable drawing fee to the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula, Montana 59801.

**Portions of Ravalli and Missoula counties:**

A total of 25 special spring turkey gobbler permits will be issued for portions of Ravalli and Missoula Counties.

Applicants must submit in writing their name, address and \$2 nonrefundable drawing fee to the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula, Montana 59801.

**Portions of Musselshell, Big Horn, Yellowstone and Golden Valley counties:**

A total of 75 special spring turkey gobbler permits will be issued for this area.

Applicants must submit in writing their name, address and \$2 nonrefundable drawing fee to the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1125 Lake Elmo Drive, Billings, Montana 59105.

## General Spring Turkey Hunting Areas

The areas listed below are open to all sportsmen who hold a valid 1987 Spring Turkey License. Special permits are not required in the areas listed below.

**Fergus County:** Fergus County in its entirety.

**Portions of Golden Valley and Wheatland counties** as follows: Beginning at the junction of highways 191 and 297 at Judith Gap, then east along Highway 297 to its junction with the Red Hill Road to Lewistown, then north along the Red Hill Road to the Golden Valley County line, then west along the Golden Valley and Wheatland counties line to its junction with Highway 191 north of Judith Gap, then south to its junction with Highway 297 the point of beginning.

**Carter, Custer, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Treasure, and Wibaux counties** in their entirety.

**Bighorn County:** Bighorn County lying east of the Bighorn River. Note: On the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservations, the 1987 Spring Wild Turkey Gobbler Season applies only to those lands which are owned in Fee by non-members of the Tribes.

## Safety and Stealth: Keys to a Successful Spring Turkey Hunt

Successful turkey hunting requires a high degree of skill. Wild turkeys are extremely wary and possess keen color vision and good hearing.

Those are the most challenging attributes sportsmen afield face while pursuing spring turkeys. Because of the wild turkey's cunning, sportsmen who forsake safe hunting measures in favor of elaborate camouflage and calling techniques can be inviting disaster. Both stealth and common sense should be used while afield for spring turkeys.

All spring turkey hunters should adhere to the following safety and hunting tips while afield this spring:

1. Eliminate the colors white, red, black and blue from your outfit; this includes handkerchiefs, socks, etc.
2. Select your calling spot in open timber rather than thick brush; eliminating movement is a key to success, not concealment.
3. In areas of high sportsmen concentrations, wear blaze orange when walking to and from your vehicle; this is also a good idea when carrying a bird out of the woods.
4. Never presume that what you hear or what answers your call is a turkey.
5. When active and vocal songbirds, crows or your turkey falls silent—look out; chances are another hunter is moving in on your bird.
6. Never move, wave or make turkey sounds to alert another sportsman of your presence; remain still, cough or holler. A quick movement may be your last. Use common sense.



**Montana Department of  
Fish, Wildlife & Parks**